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C H I E F P U B L I C H E A L T H I N S P E C T O R

1956



M A R L O W
U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
1956

Medical Officer of Health:

A.J. Muir, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

(Also Medical Officer of Health, Wycombe Rural District and High Wycombe Borough: Area and Divisional School Medical Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

R. Handy, M.B., B.S. D.P.H.

(Also Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Wycombe Rural District Council and High Wycombe Borough: Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council).

Public Health Inspectors:

T.H. Jackson, F.F.S., M.R.S.H., M.I.P.H.E. (Surveyor and Chief
Public Health Inspector)

A.A. Whiting, M.R.S.H., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.R.I.P.H.H.

R. Pulford, M.R.S.H.

Clerk/Technical Assistant:	E. Page
Clerk/Secretary:	Mrs A.L. Nunn
General Foreman:	J. Ketley



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28, High Street,
High Wycombe,
Bucks.

October, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of
Marlow Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year
1956.

In 1956 the total number of live births was 116 - the same as in 1955. The birth rate per thousand population, however, dropped from 17.3 to 16.9, the discrepancy between these figures being accounted for by an increase of 170 in the population of the district.

There were no stillbirths in the year under review although 4 infants died in the first year of life - all in fact in their first month of life. It is often fortuitous whether or not an infant dies in late intra-uterine or early extra-uterine life and for this reason stillbirths and neo-natal deaths should be considered together. If this is done the increased infant mortality - there were only two infant deaths during 1955 - is offset by the decreased stillbirths rate and the total of stillbirths and infant deaths remains the same for 1955 and 1956.

Of the 79 deaths at all ages, diseases of the heart and circulation again accounted for the greatest total. Cancer also gathered a heavy toll and the increasing death rate from lung cancer throughout the country was the focus of much attention during the year. Strong statistical evidence was used to incriminate cigarette smoking as a cause although not necessarily the only cause of lung cancer. This evidence is sufficiently convincing to give any individual smoker reason to wonder whether the evanescent delights of tobacco are worth the risk to health entailed by their indulgence.

No infectious diseases achieved alarming prevalence and no case of diphtheria, whooping cough or poliomyelitis was notified.

Effective immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough has been possible for some years and during 1956 for the first time in this country it was possible to confer some active artificial immunity to poliomyelitis. A small amount of British manufactured vaccine was released to local health authorities and this was offered first to children between the ages of two and nine years. The amount of vaccine available was far exceeded by the number of applications received, but it is hoped to expand the scheme during 1957.

During the year no death from tuberculosis occurred. In view of the large number of deaths this disease has caused in the past its absence from the mortality statistics is very satisfactory. With B.C.G. vaccination of school leavers it is hoped that in the future fewer young adults will contract tuberculosis.

My thanks are due to Mr Jackson and his staff for their co-operation during the year.

A.J. MUIR

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS.

Area in acres.....	1,664
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid-1956....	6,880
No. of inhabited houses on rate book, end of 1956.....	2,229
Rateable Value as at 31st December, 1956.....	£104,683
Estimated Product of Penny Rate.....	£422

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

BIRTHS.

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	61	52	113
	Illegitimate	1	2	3
	Totals	62	54	116
Still Births	Legitimate	0	0	0
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		0	0	0

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.....	16.9
Comparability Factor - Birth Rate.....	0.98
Adjusted local Birth Rate.....	16.56
Birth Rate of England and Wales.....	15.7
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 births live and still.....	0.0

DEATHS.

Number of Deaths	-	Males	-	37
		Females	-	42
				<hr/>
		Total	-	79
				<hr/>

Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.....	11.5
Comparability Factor.....	0.99
Adjusted Local Death Rate.....	11.3
Death Rate of England and Wales.....	11.7
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Marlow Urban District.....	0.00
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Total County.....	0.08

INFANT MORTALITY.

Four infants under the age of one year died.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.....	2	2	4
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0
	<hr/>		
Totals.....	2	2	4
	<hr/>		

This represents a mortality rate of 34.5 per 1,000 related births, compared with 23.8 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate - 34.5, compared with a county rate of 13.2

MATERNAL DEATHS.

- (a) From puerperal sepsis..... 0
- (b) From other maternal causes. 1

TABLE OF DEATHS.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	0	0	0
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic diseases.....	0	1	1
4. Diphtheria.....	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.....	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections.....	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0	0	0
8. Measles.....	0	0	0
9. Other infectious diseases.....	0	0	0
10. Cancer, Stomach.....	1	0	1
11. Cancer, Lungs.....	3	1	4
12. Cancer, Breast.....	0	1	1
13. Cancer, Uterus.....	0	0	0
14. Other cancers.....	5	3	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	0	0	0
16. Diabetes.....	0	0	0
17. Vascular lesions, nervous system....	3	6	9
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	4	3	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	2	1	3
20. Other heart diseases.....	5	9	14
21. Other circulatory diseases.....	2	0	2
22. Influenza.....	0	0	0
23. Pneumonia.....	1	2	3
24. Bronchitis.....	3	3	6
25. Other respiratory diseases.....	0	0	0
26. Gastric and duodenal ulcer.....	0	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea..	0	0	0
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	0	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	0	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	0	1	1

TABLE OF DEATHS. (contd).

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
31. Congenital malformations.....	0	0	0
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	6	8	14
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	0	0	0
34. Other accidents.....	0	0	0
35. Suicide.....	0	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	0	0	0
All causes....	37	42	79

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and still) births.</u>		
	<u>England and Wales.</u>	<u>Marlow Urban District.</u>
(a) Maternal causes excluding abortion.....		1
(b) Due to abortion.....		0
(c) Total maternal mortality....	0.56	8.62

CANCER DEATHS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages):-

Males.....	9
Females.....	5
	<hr/>
Total.....	14
	<hr/>

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

1956.....	14
1955.....	16
1954.....	16
1953.....	14
1952.....	10
1951.....	13
1950.....	16

The following organs were affected:-

Stomach.....	1
Lungs.....	4
Breast.....	1
Uterus.....	0
Other Sites.....	8
	<hr/>
Total	14
	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

Tuberculosis Death Rate (All cases).....	0.00
Total Deaths - Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.00
Total Deaths - Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.....	0
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate.....	0.00
Total Deaths - Respiratory (Excluding Tuberculosis).....	9
Respiratory Death Rate (Excluding Tuberculosis).....	1.30

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1956.

District	Population Census 1951	Registrar General's estimated Population Mid-1956.	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 live and still births.
Bucks County	386,164	419,100	16.3	9.9	0.08	17.1	13.2	0.43
Total Urban	193,168	205,400	15.7	9.5	0.08	16.7	13.3	0.30
Total Rural	192,996	213,700	16.8	10.3	0.08	17.5	13.1	0.55
Marlow Urban	6,480	6,880	16.9	11.5	0.00	34.5	34.5	8.62
England and Wales			15.7	11.7	0.12	23.8	16.9	0.56

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) 1956.

- 9 -

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Age Periods								
		Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15-24 years	25+
Scarlet Fever	2						1		1	
Whooping Cough	Nil									
Acute Poliomyelitis:										
Paralytic	Nil									
Non-Paralytic	Nil									
Measles	11	1			1	1	7		1	
Diphtheria	Nil									
Acute Pneumonia	Nil									
Dysentery	Nil									
Smallpox	Nil									
Acute Encephalitis:										
Infective	Nil									
Post Infectious	Nil									
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Nil									
Paratyphoid Fevers	Nil									
Erysipelas	Nil									
Meningococcal Infection	Nil									
Food Poisoning	Nil									
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Nil									
Totals	13	1			1	1	8		1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1956.

(a)

(b)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10		1						
15	1							
25			1					
35		1						
45	1							
55								
65+								
Totals	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

This is carried out mainly in the Child Welfare Centre and up till now it has been combined with protection against Whooping cough - three doses of the combined vaccine being given at monthly intervals. A small proportion of children are immunised by their family doctors. Boosting doses at the age of 5 years are usually given in the schools.

During 1956 129 children were inoculated against diphtheria and 116 against whooping cough. 173 children had booster doses against diphtheria.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

During the year 59 primary vaccinations and 10 re-vaccinations were carried out.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS.

During the year a vaccine against Poliomyelitis was made available by the Ministry of Health. Parents were invited to register children whose years of birth were from 1947 - 1954 inclusive and in the Health Area of which Marlow is a constituent part 3,850 children were registered. A small proportion of this number were vaccinated by the end of the year.

VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

In 1956 vaccination was offered to 13 year old children attending schools in the area. After a preliminary tuberculin test the negative reactors were given 0.1/cc B.C.G vaccine just under the skin of the left upper arm. The proportion of parents accepting the offer was very high and it is hoped that vaccination at this age will help to reduce the incidence of the disease in young adults.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The Ambulance arrangements for your District, made under proposals submitted by the County Council in accordance with Section 27 of the National Health Service Act (1946) and approved by the Ministry of Health are continuing to give satisfactory service. The Ambulance station is situated in High Wycombe and the premises are up to date and well equipped. Ambulances are under radio control.

HOSPITALS.

The available Hospitals in the District are the Metropolitan Hospitals; The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading; and the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor. In addition there are the Marlow Cottage Hospital and the War Memorial Hospital at High Wycombe.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948.

Section 47 - No formal action

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The laboratory facilities of the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford, are available for all investigations carried out on behalf of the Council. Arrangements are made direct with the Laboratory for the transport of material.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply of the district comes from deep wells owned by the Marlow Water Company. The supply is adequate and samples are taken regularly for bacteriological examination.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

Council Offices,
Court Garden,
Marlow.

To the Chairman and Members of
Marlow Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I submit my annual report for the year 1956, for inclusion with that of the Medical Officer of Health.

The year has again been a difficult one, in particular respect to the efficient maintenance of routine administration with the general shortage of skilled and unskilled labour, and I again submit that a great deal of credit is due to the General Foreman and his small labour force that essential services have been maintained efficiently, and amenity services have steadily improved.

The continued support and confidence you have given to me is of the utmost importance to efficiency, and I take this opportunity of thanking all members for their advice and guidance on many matters, and in particular for their bold and continued attack on slum clearance.

I also wish to express my thanks to the Council's Officers on my staff for their loyal and energetic work, to the Medical Officer for his advice and support, and to the Clerk and Financial Officer for their usual co-operation and assistance.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS H. JACKSON.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL SANITATION.

<u>Nature of Visit.</u>	<u>Inspection.</u>
Drainage.....	61
Pet Shop.....	1
Rodent Control.....	139
Atmospheric pollution.....	3
Building byelaw sites.....	26
Verminous premises.....	3
Re-visits.....	3
Refuse collection.....	2
Refuse disposal.....	29
Infectious disease enquiries.....	10
Re-visits.....	1
Miscellaneous infectious diseases.....	6
Miscellaneous sanitary visits.....	89
Schools.....	1
Agents etc.....	14

HOUSING.

	<u>Number of houses inspected.</u>	<u>Number of visits.</u>
Public Health Act 1936.....	21	75
Housing Act 1936.....	20	131
Overcrowding.....		2

Total inspections for the year were 1,817.

ARTICLE 31, HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS 1925.

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.....	1
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officer.....	14
3. The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to	
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works.....	2
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	1
4. The number of notices served requiring the execution of works.....	2
5. The number of houses which were rendered fit after serving of formal notices.....	2
6. The number of demolition or closing orders made...	1
7. The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under the sub-section (2) of Section 19 of the Housing Act 1930.....	1
8. The number of houses demolished.....	3

SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

<u>Number of Informal Notices.</u>	<u>Served.</u>	<u>Complied with.</u>
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Served under Public Health Act 1936.	12	14
--------------------------------------	----	----

Served under Food & Drugs Act 1955 and Food Hygiene Regulations 1955..	10	10
---	----	----

<u>Formal Notices.</u>	<u>Served.</u>	<u>Complied with.</u>	<u>Not complied with.</u>	<u>In progress.</u>
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Public Health Act 1936.

Section 93.....	2	-2	-	-
Section 138.....	Nil	Nil	-	-
Section 277.....	Nil	-	-	-

<u>Formal Notices (contd)</u>	<u>Served.</u>	<u>Complied with.</u>	<u>Not com- plied with.</u>	<u>In pro- gress.</u>
<u>Housing Act:</u>				
Section 11.....	Nil	-	-	-
<u>Food & Drugs Act 1938:</u>				
Section 13.....	Nil	-	-	-
<u>Factories Act 1937:</u>				
Section 7.....	Nil	-	-	-
Section 34.....	Nil	-	-	-
<u>Milk & Dairies Regula- tions....</u>	Nil	-	-	-
<u>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.....</u>	Nil	-	-	-
Section 4.....	Nil	-	-	-
<u>Shops Act 1950.....</u>	Nil	-	-	-

PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTIONS.

The table on page 17 represents the amount of cattle and meat inspected during the year. It will be noted that there has been a 25% increase in the numbers of cattle excluding cows, nearly 100% increase in the number of calves and $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ increase in the number of sheep and lambs, with the number of pigs remaining almost constant.

No particular comment is required in connection with the reasons for condemnation which are in the general pattern found in the country. It should, however, be noted that I am assisted in this work by the co-operation of the owner and employees of the slaughterhouse, together with that of the farmers and butchers who own the cattle and meat.

MEAT.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Shrep and Lambs.	<u>Pigs.</u>
Number killed	495	112	1,066	Also 5 Goats 2,070	2,124
Number inspected	495	112	1,066	2,070	2,124
All diseases and causes, except tuberculosis and parasites. Whole carcasses condemned.	1	2	5	5	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	29	11	3	3	33
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or parasites.	6.1	11.6	0.7	0.4	1.7
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcase condemned.	1	1	2	-	-
Carcase of which somepart or organ was condemned.	17	25	1	-	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	3.6	23.2	0.3	-	1.1
Cysticercosis: Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	3	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
All other parasitic causes. Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	88	24	-	44	88
Percentage of the number inspected affected by parasites.	17.8	21.4	-	2.2	4.1

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS - FOOD PREMISES.

<u>Type of Premises.</u>	<u>Number in District.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
Dairies and Milk Distributors.....	6	22
Butchers Shops.....	7	76
Food preparing premises.....	12	75
Bakehouses.....	2	7
Food stores including:		
Fishmongers and Poulterers.....	37	110
Greengrocers and Fruiterers.....		
Street Vendors and Hawkers.....		
Ice-cream premises.....	16	36
Restaurants.....	11	19
Slaughterhouses.....	1	588
Milk Samples - Nil		
Water Samples - Nil		
Miscellaneous food visits - 23		

FACTORIES ETC.

Factories (power).....	30	10
Factories (non-power).....	5	1
Shops.....	122	203

MILK SUPPLIES.

Routine inspections have been regularly made to five milk distributions and one dairy in the district, and a continuance of reasonable standards of dairy methods was noted.

OTHER FOODS.

Condemnation.

During the year the following foodstuffs were surrendered for a total of 169 tins including:-

Fruit 83: Meat 32: Vegetables 27: Milk 1: Soup 13:
Fish 13: Meat 346 lbs: Pork Pies 17: Sausages 38 lbs:
Fresh fish 4 st: Prawns 15 lb: Dried fruit 91 lbs.

Disposal of unsound food.

All condemned food is disposed of by burying in the Council's refuse tip under supervision.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

A great deal of work has been carried out in connection with the explanation of these regulations to all owners and occupiers of food premises and survey inspections have been made to all of them. The owners of those premises requiring alterations, improvement and additional plant have carried out these works as requested.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Sewage Disposal Works.

Works of renewal to filter beds and the addition of new pumping plant were completed during the year and the introduction of the recirculation system has proved to be very beneficial and efficient. Since the time of its operation the final effluents have proved to be very satisfactory and conform in every way to the standards required by the Thames Conservancy. During the coming year it is intended to carry out one half of the final scheme for sludge disposal.

Minimum discharge..... 161,900 gallons

Maximum discharge..... 439,700 gallons

Sewers and House Drainage.

- (i) During the year further tests were carried out to find out the cause of infiltration of sub soil water into the sewers close to the river and although two short lengths have been proved to be defective, it appears that infiltration occurs in many other cases. It has been recommended that your Consulting Engineers should consider the renewal of the two defective lengths and the work to be carried out during the present contract.

Sewers and House Drainage. (contd)

- (ii) It has been obvious during the year that although the efficiency of the disposal works has been greatly improved by the improvements referred to above, the pumping station still requires additional power to prevent surcharging of the sewers during peak periods in the times of heavy rainfall. The matter has been discussed fully with the Council's consulting engineers and further proposals will be submitted to the Council in the coming year.

RAINFALL.

The rainfall for the year 1956 was:-

January.....	3.72	inches
February.....	0.10	"
March.....	0.62	"
April.....	1.73	"
May.....	0.18	"
June.....	1.67	"
July.....	2.145	"
August.....	4.585	"
September.....	2.275	"
October.....	2.03	"
November.....	0.385	"
December.....	3.545	"

The highest daily rainfall in one day was on the 9th July, 1956, with 1.12 inches.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BUILDING BYELAWS.

Eighty-seven plans deposited for approval under the Council's Building Byelaws were dealt with, the sites and construction of the properties inspected, sewer connection and drainage work supervised and tested. All complaints have been investigated, and when coming within the scope of the Public Health Act or other Acts they have been suitably dealt with, and the Public Health Inspector's record and diary completed.

One hundred and fourteen applications under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, were dealt with and maps and records have been kept up to date:-

Approved.....	23
Conditionally approved...	57
Refused.....	22
Withdrawn.....	12

Seventy-six private houses have been completed during this year.

FACTORIES, WORK-PLACES AND SHOPS.

All power and non-power factories have been inspected during the year and minor faults remedied.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

(a) Collection.

The collection of refuse has continued in a satisfactory manner and it has been possible to maintain a weekly house-to-house collection as the new estates have not developed as rapidly as was expected last year. The limit to the output of one vehicle and gang has nearly been reached and by 1958 it is expected that an increase in labour and vehicles will be required as an alternative to a kerb-side collection.

(b) Disposal.

The system of disposal is by controlled tipping in a low-lying area at the Sewage Works. This land is rapidly being filled and disposal of refuse in the confined Urban District area is increasingly difficult. It is hoped that in the coming year a privately owned disused gravel pit may be available.

(c) Salvage Collection.

The following figures represent salvage collection and receipts for this year which follow the general trend of a reduction in the form of collection and the market prices of materials:-

Waste paper	2 tons	14cwt.	2qrs.	£17. 14. 3d.
Scrap Iron	14 "	15 "	2 "	£85. 2. 3d.

COUNCIL HOUSES.

(a) Construction and Sites.

During the year the remaining 26 houses on the Allanson Road Estate were commenced and it was decided by the Council to construct a certain number of two-bed room flats, built in blocks of 4 and one experimental block has been commenced in Newtown Road.

(b) Maintenance of Council Houses.

Funds were not available during the year to improve the amenities of pre-war Council houses, apart from replacing broken down garden fences, but it is hoped that during 1957 it will be possible for some amenity improvements to be provided.

(c) Slum Clearance.

The first clearance area of 19 houses has been confirmed by the Minister and the second area containing 40 units and 2 shops has been declared by the Council and an application for a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister.

The 2 areas referred to in Dean Street front on to a part of this road which forms an important entry to the town. It is adjoining a redevelopment area proposal by the County Council and it is hoped that the standard of housing replacing these old properties will be allowed to be in keeping with the redevelopment proposals. Plans have been prepared and approved by the Council which show a superior quality facing brick together with sash and frame windows to match some County Council buildings nearby, and it is hoped that the Minister will give his approval to an increased loan sanction when the time comes.

RODENT CONTROL.

The table on page 23 shows the degree of infestation and records of control in the area.

During the year the Rodent Operator also dealt with the following infestations:-

21 wasps nests; 6 ants nests and 2 complaints of cockroaches.

HIGHWAYS.

Normal maintenance and repairs have been carried out to footpaths and carriageways and approximately 11,540 yards of granite chippings surface dressing was done very successfully by the Council's labour at a cost of 1/- per yard super.

Estate road works to two private estates and one Council estate for a total of 150 houses have been designed and constructed.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE.

Daily, weekly and monthly maintenance to vehicles is carried out and suitable records kept.

DEPOTS AND STORES.

Further works of minor improvements with available funds have been carried out to the garage and store accommodation at the Council's depot.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1942.

	Type of Property			All other (including Business & Industrial	Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri- cultural		
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	9	2,119	Nil	414	2,542
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1956 as a result of (a) Notification (b) otherwise or (c) survey under the Act	(a) -	91	Nil	11	102
	(b) 5	41	Nil	87	133
	(c) 4	-	Nil	-	4
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats.	Major 1	1	Nil	Nil	2
	Minor 4	98	Nil	15	117
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by mice.	Major -	5	Nil	-	5
	Minor 1	35	Nil	3	39
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority.	6	139	Nil	18	163
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4:- (1) Treatment (2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ADMINISTRATION.

- (a) During the year the recruitment of outside staff to maintain essential services has become increasingly difficult. Replacements are not available to fill the places of the steady drain away from the Council's employ to better paid local industry and the prospects during the next year do not appear optimistic.
- (b) Members of the Council must often be asked by members of the public, many questions in connection with the responsibilities of the local Council and the accompanying "Family tree" will assist them in giving descriptions and explanations of their many and varied responsibilities and how their staff is occupied.





